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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 12, 2015

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Jersey City One Stop Career Center Provided More than 4,100 People with Job Readiness Skills and Employment Assistance in 2014 as Fulop Administration Expands Employment Opportunities for All Residents

In First Year, Jersey City’s Prisoner Re-Entry Program, a National Model, Placed 115 in Employment, Offering a Second Chance to the Ex-Offender Community

JERSEY CITY – Already a model of job creation in the region, the Fulop Administration continues to expand employment opportunities for all Jersey City residents with more than **4,100 people receiving access to employment assistance and job training** in 2014 through the One Stop Career Center.

In its first year, the **Jersey City prisoner re-entry program**, a national model, enrolled 178 residents, placing 115 in jobs and offering them a second chance at a productive life.

“Jersey City has been an example for job growth and job creation in the region, but none of that matters if we don’t offer access to those jobs for all of our residents,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “We have aggressively expanded our partnerships with corporate stakeholders, developed vocational programs and are creating a model prisoner re-entry program that is offering hundreds of residents a second chance at life.”

On Tuesday, the administration announced **U.S. Bureau of Labor** statistics that show Jersey City continues to outpace both the nation and the state and other major cities in the NY/NJ region in **reducing the unemployment rate** as Mayor Fulop aggressively focuses on attracting both construction and permanent jobs to Jersey City.

Since Mayor Fulop took office, more than 9,000 jobs have been added and **Jersey City’s unemployment rate has dropped** from 10.6 percent to 6.5 percent.

To complement the administration’s job creation efforts, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP) offers a broad range of services to the Jersey City community through both the One-Stop Career Center and Martin’s Place Prisoner Re-Entry Center. JCETP provides comprehensive job readiness training, life skills workshops, individualized computer instruction, adult basic education and job search assistance.

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In a newly launched program, 219 Jersey City residents participated in vocational training through JCEPT in 2014, including an EMT training program with Jersey City Medical Center-Barnabas Health and a construction skills apprenticeship program with members of the Hudson County Building Trades, notably the Laborers and the Carpenters unions. Both programs included placement in local employment following the courses.

The administration's job placement efforts did not solely focus on adults, as nearly 1,000 students were placed in meaningful jobs and internships at local corporations and non-profits through the Jersey City Summer Works Program in 2014. Through JC Summer Works, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program placed 185 high school students in jobs last summer, double the amount from the prior year.

And in an effort to not leave behind any resident, the Jersey City prisoner re-entry program was established by the Fulop Administration – the first of its kind in New Jersey – and is being heralded as a national model. In its first year, the program, which works in collaboration with the Hudson County Correctional Center, enrolled 178 residents, with 115 gaining employment. The center coordinates all necessary services in one location, assisting ex-offenders with addiction recovery, transitional housing, job training and job placement.

“The Jersey City re-entry program was a blessing for me from the minute I walked through the door,” said **Isaiah Ingram**, an alumnus of the re-entry program who was placed in employment with the Beacon as a full-time bookkeeper. “Everyone treated me as an individual, made me feel important, and boosted my self-confidence. They weren't focused on my past, but were interested in how to rebuild my life and get me back into society. The training and access they provided made all the difference.”

Of the re-entry clients served in 2014, 82 percent have successfully avoided new interactions with law enforcement, which is significantly better than the national recidivism rate of 56.7 percent reported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

“This is very much a team game and I am particularly grateful to our clients, namely our re-entry clients, who have been willing to go the extra mile to secure a job,” said **James McGreevey, Executive Director of the Jersey City Employment and Training Program**. “I am also thankful to the state Department of Labor and the Hudson County Correctional Center for creating such a strong partnership in returning ex-offenders to work.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///